

Good Evening. I am Thea Levkovitz, Vice-president of the Washington Wildlife Federation an organization committed to the protection of wildlife and the habitat upon which they depend.

Please submit my comments into the record for the Corps draft EIS and Federal Caucus' "All-H Paper.

The Snake River is a unique and important ecosystem that is endangered of losing what makes it outstanding – wild salmon and steelhead – and yet an ecosystem that we still have an opportunity to protect and restore. I urge the agencies today to take this opportunity and protect this ecosystem by choosing an alternative that includes removing the lower four Snake River dams.

Keeping these dams makes no sense for the economy – your own analysis shows that the region would be better off if the dams were removed. While keeping the dams would cost about \$500 million per year, removing them would cost the region nearly \$50 million less per year.

Keeping the dams makes no sense for the salmon – PATH Scientists found the best chance for recovering Snake River salmon would be to remove the dams. Even NMFS's attempt to rebut PATH (NMFS's CRI, Cumulative Risk Initiative) shows that we can't recover all Snake River salmon and steelhead without removing the dams.

Keeping the dams makes no sense for our culture and heritage. The Pacific NW is known for its salmon. And yet, we are here today to discuss whether to take an action that would save this regional icon or instead, simply let these fish go extinct.

My 9 1/2 year old son, Jess, is studying the pioneers in third grade. Just last night we were reading some of his school work and in his reading was a sentence describing the father tilling the fields. Behind him were the passenger pigeons scavenging for insects.

At that moment, Jess asked me, "Mom, what is a passenger pigeon? I had to tell him they were gone, extinct, he will never get to see one.....The passenger pigeons were gone before most of us were born. Will he be asked by his son, "Dad, what is a salmon?"

When I put my name in the lottery box this morning, I wondered out loud what needed to be said today and what needed to be heard. The woman tending the box said that you wanted to hear what was missing in the analysis.

There are many reasons that keeping the dams make no sense. There are economic, cultural and even legal reasons. These are all compelling.

But what I will tell you what is missing in the analysis. It is the moral, ethical and even spiritual criteria. What is the cost to our integrity, our fullness as human beings, our communities, our relationship with a greater truth if we make a choice that simply allows these salmon to go the way of the passenger pigeon. Especially when we know what to do.

We are at a critical juncture. We can be the leaders. What we do here is being watched by the nation, the world. Do we have the moral courage to create a future with salmon? Do we have the spiritual depth to create a future for other beings with whom we share the Pacific Northwest? I believe we do. I know we are up to the task. Only one alternative can make it happen – removing the four lower Snake River Dams.